

FLD
308

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET/CONTROL-U.S.OFFICIALS ONLY

COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	New Penal Code in the Polish Army	DATE DISTR.	11 December 1953	
		NO. OF PAGES	2	
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REFERENCES		25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

1. In May 1953, by state decree, various regulations were added to the Polish Army's military penal code. These regulations, based on the Soviet penal code, are very severe and are aimed at putting a stop to such minor infractions as returning late from leave or "town permission", damage to equipment, arms, etc. The new penal code confirms the existence of penal detachments (oddzialy karne), which heretofore had not been acknowledged; the penal detachments had, in fact, been a forbidden subject, and anyone guilty of talking about them was liable to punishment. Soldiers are sentenced to penal detachments for a minimum of three months, and more often for two years. A number of such penal detachments now exist in Poland, for the different arms of the service, and are scattered in the provinces along the Polish-Soviet frontier. A soldier two hours late from leave or from "town permission" is liable to penal servitude; absence of less than two hours is also punishable in the event it is a second offense.
2. For attempted escape from a penal detachment a soldier can be sentenced to many years in prison, and for attempted escape from a labor battalion he is sentenced to two years in prison. Moreover, the time spent in a penal detachment or in prison is not reckoned as part of a soldier's obligatory military service.
3. Life in the penal detachments is arduous; in addition to many military duties, the soldiers must perform hard labor; their food is bad, they are paid only six zloty per month, and are allowed no cigarettes.
4. Large numbers of soldiers desert from the labor battalions because, as soldiers, they resent the heavy manual labor they must perform in return for a soldier's meager monthly pay. In addition to the mandatory heavy labor, soldiers in work battalions are required to practice military drill in their off-duty hours; only every thirteenth Sunday is free from work and military drill.
5. The greatest number of desertions occur in the labor battalions in the coal mines in

SECRET/CONTROL-U.S.OFFICIALS ONLY

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

STATE	X	ARMY EV	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC					
-------	---	---------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

SECRET/CONTROL-U.S.OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

- 2 -



Silesia, where working conditions are unspeakable, and where the work is so heavy that even the regular miners refuse to work. The mortality rate among young soldiers in this area is high; their health is impaired and they contract tuberculosis.

SECRET/CONTROL-U.S.OFFICIALS ONLY